GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3898
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
APATANI SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the Apatanis system of agriculture, prevalent among the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh in view of its highly sustainable, eco-friendly and energy efficient merits;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified areas and regions in the country where this system of agriculture and irrigation can best be promoted and adopted to maximise productivity of farm land and obtaining richer harvests; and

(c) the steps since taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The Apatani system of agriculture is highly location specific system of agriculture including wet land rice, agro-forestry and fish cum paddy culture practiced by Apatani Tribes without any use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh which has round the year water availability for irrigation. Attempts have been made by the State Government to adopt this system of agriculture especially wet land rice cultivation elsewhere in the State. However, because of limitations of irrigation management owing to drying up of perennial sources of water during winter, Apatani system of agriculture can not be adopted successfully in other parts of the State. For promotion of rice including wet land rice, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP-Rice) is in operation in Arunachal Pradesh under Macro Management Programme.